

the Hon. Clarence Lexow, of New York. A northeast gale was blowing against which the birds were flying with much difficulty. A heavy rain soon set in and the wind blew furiously, still the flight continued and it was rarely that the chain was broken, even for a few seconds. The appearance of a Sparrow Hawk among them had the effect of causing the birds to rise to a great height, but the flight was in no respect retarded. After watching the birds nearly all of the forenoon we made a careful estimate of the number that had passed and we calculated that it was not to be reckoned by tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands, but by millions.—JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, *Floral Park, N. Y.*

Intelligence of the Shrike.—When studying birds in Florida last year, I took a shot at a fine specimen of the Southern Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) for the purpose of adding him to my collection. The bird flew a considerable distance, wounded, and attempted to light in the branches of a tree, but was unable to do so and fell to the ground. As I approached to pick him up, he arose from the ground, issued a cry of distress and fluttered away with great difficulty. Immediately another Butcher-bird darted out from some near-by tree, flew to its wounded companion, circled about him and underneath him, buoying him up as he was about to sink to the ground. These tactics were repeated continually, the birds rising higher and flying further away until they had gone nearly out of sight and safely lodged in the top of a tall pine. I did not pursue the bird further, feeling that such devotion and intelligent assistance on the part of the second bird was worthy of success. In all my observations of birds I never before, or since, witnessed such an interesting exhibition.—JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, *Floral Park, N. Y.*

The Bohemian Waxwing in Onondaga County, N. Y.—During the hard snow storm of Feb. 10, 1899, a flock of about 50 Cedar Waxwings were seen in a mountain ash tree, feeding on the berries. The tree is on one of the principal residence streets of Syracuse, and is thickly populated. The observer, being an amateur collector, and living but a few houses from the place, returned for his gun and shot into the flock, securing several Cedar Waxwings, and one, which was seen to drop some distance from the tree, proved to be a Bohemian Waxwing (*Ampelis garrulus*). This is the first specimen recorded from Onondaga County. It seems strange that this bird should be associated with its brother species.

I would like to know if it has been taken or recorded farther south than Syracuse, and whether these two species are in the habit of flocking together?—A. W. PERRIOR, *Syracuse, N. Y.*

Date of Discovery and Type Locality of the Mountain Mockingbird.—The formal description* of *Orpheus montanus* in Townsend's Narr., 1839, App. p. 338, states that the bird "inhabits the banks of the Platte River, west of the Rocky Mountains." This is impossible, as there is no Platte

River west of the main divide of the Rocky Mountains. But another passage in the 'Narrative,' p. 70, gives the desired data to fix the date of discovery and precise locality. Writing of June 15, 1834, Townsend says: "I found here a beautiful new species of Mockingbird, which I shot and prepared"; and gives a footnote referring to the Appendix as above cited for the description. At the date in mention, N. J. Wyett's expedition, accompanied by Townsend and Nuttall, had made the South Pass over the Continental Divide on the 14th, and were about to camp on Big Sandy River, a tributary of Green River, in Wyoming. They were on the already established fur traders' route which went about S. W. from the Pass to the Big Sandy at or near the confluence of the latter with Green River. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

Notes on Birds of Long Island.—*Ardea egretta* and *A. candidissima*.—It is a pleasure to note that both 'White Herons' are still entitled to notice among the present avifauna of Long Island, notwithstanding the continued persecution to which both species throughout the entire limits of their range have been of late years subjected, and the consequent diminution in their numbers.

Their persistent occurrence on Long Island in spite of their decline in numbers is rather remarkable and may be regarded as denoting that Long Island is an attractive feeding ground for this genus of birds. It may also be that there exists an instinct affecting certain individuals leading them to migrate in the autumn in a direction contrary to that of the species as a whole, or, that the genus is simply prone to a wandering, restless disposition. Since Mr. Dutcher's note on the former was published (*Auk*, III, 1, p. 435) nothing, I think, has appeared to show that either of the birds now nest on Long Island, and it seems questionable whether the birds have nested so far north since the prevailing demand for their plumes first began. Late occurrences of the two species are as follows:

During the autumn of 1897 several 'White Herons' were noted about the shores of Jamaica Bay, Queen's County, by several observers, from whom I heard of them. Chas. Ward, a gunner of Rockaway Beach, shot several on or about October 1, one of which was merely wing-tipped. This bird was preserved alive for some time, in which condition I saw it on October 9, it having then been in captivity about a week or ten days. The bird was confined in a boat builder's shop where its unnatural surroundings affected it unfavorably, as it appeared drooping and sick. It proved to be a specimen of the American Egret, *Ardea egretta*.

A flock of Snowy Herons, *Ardea candidissima*, comprising six or seven individuals, was seen on the salt meadows near East Rockaway in mid-August this year (1899). Two of these, which were wing-tipped, are now in the possession of Mr. Daniel DeMott of East Rockaway. They are at present in apparently excellent condition, established in roomy, comfortable quarters, with out-door run and with in-door shelter. Mr. DeMott